

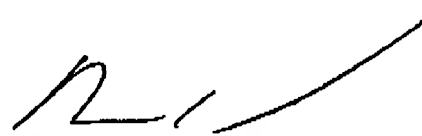
SN. 09/651,654 ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. CANO:013

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 6-9, 12-15, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sano (USP 5,038,379) in view of Platt (US PG Pub 2002/0047798). Applicant's representatives explained the invention to the Examiner during a personal interview granted on August 5, 2004. The Examiner tentatively agreed that amendments proposed during the interview would be sufficient to overcome the rejection based on Sano and Platt. Applicants have amended the claims as presented during the interview. The proposed amendments clarify that the claimed keyword corresponds to a plurality of images and to a plurality of levels of importance of the keyword with respect to the plurality of images. The Examiner indicated that further search and consideration would be needed in view of the amendment.

Applicant submits that the pending claims patentably distinguish over the applied references and are in condition for allowance. Should the examiner have any issues concerning this reply or any other outstanding issues remaining in this application, applicant urges the examiner to contact the undersigned to expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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